

## REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 16 - 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner stated:

“Regarding claim 16, the phrase ‘the plurality of clients’ lacks proper antecedent basis. In addition, the claim is unclear as to the relationship between the preamble (sending a transaction to a first of the plurality of clients) and element e (sending the retrieved transaction to the client).

Regarding claim 18, the phrase ‘the first cycle’ lacks proper antecedent basis.

Claims 17 – 20 are rejected because they incorporate the deficiencies of claim 16.”

Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out the above antecedent basis deficiencies.

Applicants have amended claims 16 and 18 to correct the antecedent basis deficiencies.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 – 10 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over certain claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,735,654. Applicants have attached a terminal disclaimer to overcome the Examiner’s double patenting rejection.

Independent claims 11, 16, and 21 have been amended to require:


“wherein the first repeater contains an arbiter that arbitrates transactions between the first repeater and the second repeater and arbitrates transactions between the first repeater and the third repeater.”

Applicants do not believe that Hagersten ‘716 nor Hagersten ‘605 describe an arbiter that arbitrates transactions between the first repeater and the second repeater as well as between the first repeater and the third repeater. Thus, Applicants believe that independent claims 11, 16, and 21, together with dependent claims 12 – 15, 17 – 20, and 22 – 24 are allowable.

**CONCLUSION**

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Hoyt A. Fleming III  
Registration No. 41752

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<b>Address correspondence to:</b>  <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> <i>Customer Number or Bar Code Label</i>  <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">28422</div>	<b>or</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Correspondence Address Below</i>  Park, Vaughan & Fleming LLP P.O. Box 140678 Boise, ID 83714	<b>Direct telephone calls to:</b>  Hoyt A. Fleming III (208) 336-5237
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